

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01594 041220Z

53

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /029 W

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R 041133Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2687

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 1594

E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 2-5-76

TAGS: PFOR PINT LE US

SUBJECT: NEW MARONITE PATRIARCH ELECTED IN LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 463

1. SIXTY-EIGHT YEAR-OLD ANTONIOS KHURAYSH, ARCHBISHOP OF SIDON, WAS ELECTED LEBANON'S 77TH MARONITE PATRIARCH ON FEB 3. HIS ELECTION CAME ON LAST DAY OF 15-DAY CONCLAVE WHICH WITNESSED SOME 60 BALLOTS. HAD CONCLAVE FAILED SELECT NEW PATRIARCH ON FEB 3, RESPONSIBILITY OF DOING SO WOULD HAVE DEVOLVED ON VATICAN.

2. ALTHOUGH KHURAYSH IS WELL-LIKED FIGURE IN MARONITE ECCLESIASTICAL CIRCLES, HIS ELECTION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SOMETHING OF A COMPROMISE--I.E., AN EXPEDIENT RESORTED TO AFTER OTHER, MORE FORCEFUL CANDIDATES PROVED UNABLE TO ATTAIN NECESSARY 10 OUT OF 14 ELECTORAL VOTES.

3. FORMAL INSTALLATION OF NEW PATRIARCH WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE OVER THE COMING WEEKEND.
GODLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTIONS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT01594
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750040-0530
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750276/aaaacpzf.tel
Line Count: 49
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BEIRUT 463
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW MARONITE PATRIARCH ELECTED IN LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LE, US, (KHURAYSH, ANTONIOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006